

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU  
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Studies in the News**

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**California -- One Hundred Years Ago**

**February 1909** “Forty and possibly fifty thousand home-seekers are expected to reach Los Angeles from the East during March and April. Eager to escape from the blizzard belt, an army of settlers will come from beyond the ‘Rockies’ to spy out this glorious land. Special colonist and tourist rates will go into effect March 1, on all lines of railroad entering this city. Thousands of people who are now shivering in the regions of tied-up traffic and snowdrift, are counting the days until they will be free to take advantage of the low fares and come to the land where elbow sleeves and peek-a-boo waists are winter accompaniments, where roses bloom in January, and the Erl King keeps his crown of white for the exclusive decoration of ‘Old Baldy’ and his consorts.” *Los Angeles Times* (February 22, 1909) Pg III.

**1909** “The full returns which have been thoroughly canvassed show that the spring colonist movement into the Pacific Northwest and into California was the greatest in the history of the railroads. During the month of March and April, which is the period of low colonist rates, the records show that approximately 63,000 people sought new homes on the broad acres of the Northwest including Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming, and that fully 8,000 people found permanent lodgment in California, making a total of 71,000. The colonist movement is the one bright spot in the railroad record of the year thus far and the officials of all lines take it as an omen that the people in general have plenty of money and that they are not frightened by the bugaboo of business depression.” *Los Angeles Times* (May 17, 1909) pg I2.

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## Introduction to Studies in the News

*Studies in the News* is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at [www.library.ca.gov/sitn](http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn)

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); [csinfo@library.ca.gov](mailto:csinfo@library.ca.gov)) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

### GUNS & GUN CONTROL

**“Guns and Homicide: Is the Instrument-Focused Approach to Deterrence Efficacious?”** By James M. La Valle. IN: *Justice Policy Journal*, vol. 5, no. 2 (Fall 2008) pp. 1-30

Full text at: [http://www.cjcj.org/files/guns\\_and.pdf](http://www.cjcj.org/files/guns_and.pdf)

["Recent spree-killings have strengthened criminological commitment to resolving the everlooming question of how best to prevent criminal gun-fatalities. But the U.S. Supreme Court held that the 2nd amendment guarantees the individual right to 'keep and bear arms', a ruling which leaves sentencing enhancements for gun-crimes as perhaps the most probable alternative gun-intervention. This study adjusts for technical concerns to re-estimate accordingly the effects that sentencing enhancements for gun crimes may exert on homicide rates and gun-homicide rates in 20 major cities across the U.S. between 1970 and 2005, and it finds that one type significantly reduces gun-homicide rates, but that none detectably reduce total homicide rates."]

[Request #S09-5-3214]

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## PRISONERS

**Ralph Coleman, et al. v. Anrnold Schwarzenegger, et al. CIV S-90-0520.  
Marciano Plata, et al. v. Arnold Schwarzenegger. C01-1351. US. District Court,  
Northern and Eastern Districts of California. February 9, 2009. 10 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.prisonlaw.com/pdfs/Platatentativeruling.pdf>

["A panel of three federal judges, saying overcrowding in state prisons has deprived inmates of their right to adequate healthcare, tentatively ruled that the state must reduce the population in those lockups by as many as 57,000 people. The judges issued the decision after a trial in two long-running cases brought by inmates to protest the state of medical and mental healthcare in the prisons. Although their order is not final, [the court] effectively told the state that it had lost the trial and would have to make dramatic changes in its prisons unless it could reach a settlement with inmates' lawyers. State officials immediately said they would appeal. If the state is ordered to reduce the prison population, it would likely be able to do so over two or three years." Los Angeles Times (February 10, 2009) 1.]  
[Request #S09-5-3342]

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## PRISONS

**California Prison Health Care Services: Improper Contracting Decisions and Poor Internal Controls. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) January 2009. 30 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/I2008-0805.pdf>

["California prison health care receiver ignored state contract rules and court edicts and awarded more than \$28 million in technology deals in 2007 and 2008. The auditor found 24 breaches of state contract laws in 16 contracts. Four failed to comply with bidding and evaluation requirements. It was unclear whether 'appropriate individuals' reviewed and approved 11 of the contracts. Non-state employees, served on contract selection committees but never signed conflict-of-interest forms to document their impartiality. Staff members did not comply with court-imposed requirements -- awarding five of six technology contracts worth almost \$28 million using alternative methods, including a \$26.9 million deal with IBM." Sacramento Bee (February 4, 2009) 1.]  
[Request #S09-5-3328]

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## **SEXUAL ABUSE**

**An Analysis of Federally Prosecuted Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Cases since the Passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. By Kevonne M. Small, and others, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2008. 163 p**

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411813\\_CSEC\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411813_CSEC_analysis.pdf)

["This study examined the prosecution of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth in the United States. The research took the form of a national analysis of federal prosecutions since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000, answering the following research questions: 1) Is the United States enforcing existing federal laws related to CSEC? 2) What are the key features of successfully prosecuted CSEC cases? 3) Have the U.S. courts increased penalties associated with sexual crimes against children? and, 4) What are the effects of CSEC legislation on service providers who work with victims? This assessment provides policy makers with a means of assessing the effects of legislation aimed at combating CSEC."]

[Request #S09-5-3242]

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## **ECONOMY**

### **BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**

**The State of American Business 2009. By the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. (The Chamber, Washington, DC) January 2009. 42 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.uschamber.com/assets/09sab.pdf>

["As we work to pull our economy out of the ditch, let us also seize the opportunity to enact broad and deep reforms that address the most pressing problems facing our country. To ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to compete and succeed in the 21st century, we must do the following: 1) Reform the rules governing our financial institutions and capital markets; 2) Invest in America's infrastructure; 3) Spur the domestic development of all traditional and alternative energy sources; 4) Root out lawsuit abuse; 5) Reinvent the nation's public schools; 6) Advance a vigorous trade agenda; 7) Challenge organized labor's regulatory and organizing agenda; 8) Increase access, affordability, and the quality of health care; 9) Stop intellectual property theft; and 10) Adopt a tax system that encourages savings and investment."]

[Request #S09-5-3258]

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## CREDIT CARD INDUSTRY

**Putting Credit Card Debt on Notice: Using Electronic Reminders to Give Consumers the Right Information at the Right Time. By Tim Westrich, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 2009. 14 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/credit\\_cards.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/pdf/credit_cards.pdf)

["It is often difficult for consumers to find information about when payments are due and to understand what actions will lead to a penalty. In fact, credit card companies dole out \$18.1 billion in penalties to their customers each year. One simple technological solution could help level the playing field between cardholders and credit card companies and put money back into families' budgets. Text messages -- or a similarly rapid electronic method -- could allow a financial institution to transfer information to cardholders at the 'teachable moment' when they need it the most. If the typical credit cardholder agreement were dissected into useful pieces, made clearer, and sent to the cardholder in real time, it would decrease the likelihood that cardholders would incur a fee."]

[Request #S09-5-3335]

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## ECONOMIC POLICY

**"Financial Regulation: An Agenda for Reform" By Lawrence J. White. IN: The Milken Institute Review. (1st. Quarter 2009). pp. 15-25**

Full text at: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/mirsp/15-25.mr41.pdf>

["This crazy-quilt pattern would cry for simplification even in the absence of financial crisis. But two qualifications should be kept in mind. First, overlapping regulation did not cause the financial meltdown, and it is far from clear that a simpler framework would have better addressed the problems building over the last decade. Second, regulatory complexity and overlap can work to open the system to new ideas. Just as a monopoly in the private sector can be an impediment to innovation, so, too, can a monopoly in government regulation."]

[Request #S09-5-3280]

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## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

**Factors Underlying the Decline in Manufacturing Employment Since 2000. By David Brauer, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) December 2008. 8 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/97xx/doc9749/12-23-Manufacturing.pdf>

["Although the decline in manufacturing employment in recent years is not a departure from long-standing trends -- the sector's share of total employment has been falling steadily for more than half a century -- the recession of 2001 hit manufacturing particularly hard. And, in sharp contrast to the pattern observed during previous expansions, employment in manufacturing (as reflected in the total number of hours worked) did not recover as it usually does following a recession.... The steep decline in manufacturing employment since 2000 is associated with two interrelated developments: rapid gains in productivity (output per hour) in U.S. manufacturing and increased competition from foreign producers."]  
[Request #S09-5-3221]

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## EDUCATION

### EDUCATIONAL REFORM

**The New Stupid: Limitations of Data-Driven Education Reform. By Frederick M. Hess, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) January 2009. 4 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090129\\_EduOJan09\\_g.pdf](http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090129_EduOJan09_g.pdf)

["Educators have made great strides in using data, and it is hard to attend an education conference or read an education magazine without encountering broad claims for data-driven education reform. But danger lies ahead for those who misunderstand what data can and cannot do. Phrases such as 'data-driven decision-making' and 'research-based practice' can readily morph into convenient buzzwords that stand in for careful thought, obscure rather than clarify, serve as dressed-up rationales for the same old fads, or justify incoherent proposals. Because few educators today are inclined to denounce data, there has been an unfortunate tendency to embrace glib new solutions rather than ask the simple question: what exactly does it mean to use data or research to inform decisions?"]  
[Request #S09-5-3339]

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## TEACHERS

**From Qualifications to Results: Promoting Teacher Effectiveness Through Federal Policy.** By Robin Chait, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) January 2009.

[“Research now shows that most qualifications only weakly predict whether teachers will succeed in the classroom, and one of the best predictors of future performance is past performance. This means that increasing the share of teachers who are high performers will be a straighter path to improving student achievement than focusing on credentials. What is not so clear is how the transition to a performance focus can work on the ground. This paper briefly explains why a focus on effectiveness is needed and how it might work, and it describes current federal policy related to teacher quality. It then provides some new ideas about how federal policy can stimulate change at the state and local level to help states and districts move from a qualifications focus to an effectiveness focus”]  
[Request #S09-5-3332]

Report. 40 p.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/pdf/het.pdf>

Executive Summary. 6 p.

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/pdf/het\\_exec\\_sum.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/pdf/het_exec_sum.pdf)

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## EMPLOYMENT

### PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**Report on the Hispanic Employment Challenge in the Federal Government.** By The Federal Hispanic Work Group. (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, DC) January 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://www.eeoc.gov/federal/report/hwg.html>

["The Hispanic Work Group was directed to examine concerns about federal sector employment including, but not limited to, hiring, leadership development and retention. More importantly, the Work Group was given the responsibility of formulating recommendations designed to enhance and refocus federal Hispanic employment plans, and to remove barriers and level the playing field to encourage greater opportunities for Hispanic applicants and employees throughout the federal government. The Work Group was tasked with issuing a report containing both assessments of the problems, as well as issues and recommendations on how to resolve them. The enclosed report constitutes the Work Group's recommendations to the EEOC Chair."]  
[Request #S09-5-3292]

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## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**Unemployment Insurance: Current Situation and Potential Reforms.** By Wayne Vroman, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 3, 2009. 13 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411835\\_unemployment\\_insurance.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411835_unemployment_insurance.pdf)

["Entering 2009, the American economy faces numerous uncertainties in the product market, the financial market, and the labor market. The economy has been in recession for more than a year, and the prospects for 2009 and 2010 are shaky at best. This report summarizes the present situation with emphasis on the challenges facing the unemployment insurance program. It reviews benefit reciprocity, state trust fund balances, and administrative performance. Finally, it recommends changes to improve program financing and performance as an automatic stabilizer of family income and the macro economy."]

[Request #S09-5-3337]

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## ENERGY

### ENERGY POLICY

**Energy Discovery-Innovation Institutes: A Step toward America's Energy Sustainability.** By James Duderstadt, University of Michigan, and others. (Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) February 2009. 78 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0209\\_energy\\_innovation\\_muro/0209\\_energy\\_innovation\\_muro\\_full.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0209_energy_innovation_muro/0209_energy_innovation_muro_full.pdf)

["A recent report urged the Energy Department to partner more closely with academia and the private sector to help bring better, cheaper clean-energy technology to market. The report suggests modeling today's research on the regional agricultural extension services, created in the late 1800s, that pioneered advances in crops and industry. 'Agriculture was something that needed new technology and a green revolution,' said James Duderstadt. 'But it could only go into the marketplace by working hand in hand on a regional basis with farmers.'" Los Angeles Times (February 9, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-5-3340]

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## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

### CLIMATE CHANGE

**"Irreversible Climate Change Due to Carbon Dioxide Emissions." By Susan Solomon and others. IN: Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, vol. 106, no. 6 (January 28, 2009) pp. 1704-1709**

Full text at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2009/01/28/0812721106.full.pdf>

["In a new study of climate change researchers are warning that even if carbon emissions can be halted, temperatures will remain high until the year 3000. The warming will melt the polar ice caps and raise ocean levels ....inundating low-lying islands and much of the world's shorelines. Rainfall patterns will bring droughts comparable to the 1930's dustbowl. Researchers state that global warming has been slowed by the ocean, because water absorbs a lot of energy to warm up. That good effect will stop over time and the ocean will help keep the planet warmer by giving off its accumulated heat to the air." Los Angeles Times ( January 26, 2009) 1.]  
[Request #S09-5-3313]

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### EARTHQUAKES

**The Resilient City: Part 1. Before the Disaster What We Need to Do Now to Recover Quickly From a Major Earthquake. By Chris Poland and others, San Francisco Planning Urban Research Association. (The Association, San Francisco, California) 2009. 18 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.spur.org/documents/020109\\_article\\_01.shtm](http://www.spur.org/documents/020109_article_01.shtm)

["San Francisco's buildings and infrastructure are unprepared to handle the big earthquake that will hit the city in the coming decades. The city has more than 120,000 buildings and 90 percent of them were erected before the requirement of modern building codes in the 1970s. Some 30,000 buildings could be damaged beyond repair in a Loma Prieta-like earthquake of 6.9 magnitude. Scientists expect the next big quake to be a magnitude of at least 7.2. San Francisco could avoid \$1.5 billion in damage if it forced owners of 2,800 of the weakest residential buildings -- known as soft-story buildings - to retrofit. The wood-frame structures are the most vulnerable to severe earthquakes." San Francisco Chronicle (February 2, 2009) 1.]  
[Request #S09-5-3326]

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## FLOODPLAINS

**Mapping the Zone: Improving Flood Map Accuracy. By the Committee on FEMA Flood Maps, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) January 2009.**

["Significant loss of life, destroyed property and businesses, and repairs to infrastructure could be avoided by replacing Federal Emergency Management Agency flood maps with ones that contain high-accuracy and high-resolution land surface elevation data. The benefits of more accurate flood maps will outweigh the costs, mainly because insurance premiums and building restrictions would better match the actual flood risks. Coastal region flood maps could also be improved by updating current models and using two-dimensional storm surge and wave models." Science Daily (January 25, 2009) 1.] Mapping the Zone... is available for loan. [Request #S09-5-3311]

Book. 200 p.

[book](#)

Executive Summary. 23 p.

[summary](#)

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## TOXICS

**National [sic] Resources Defense Council, Inc. and Public Citizen, Inc. v. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. 08-Civ-10507. February 5, 2009.**

["A federal judge overturned a decision by a government commission and said manufacturers and retailers could not sell children's items containing phthalates, which are chemicals used to soften plastic, after [February 10]. The Consumer Product Safety Commission had said that retailers could sell items containing phthalates if they were manufactured before [February 10]... But business groups aren't surrendering. Five Republican senators introduced an amendment to the economic stimulus bill that would make changes to the consumer product safety act. It would delay the regulations by six months, clarify rules about component testing, exempt resellers from the act, prevent retroactive enforcement of the act and require the commission to provide small businesses with a compliance guide." Los Angeles Times (February 6, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-5-3333]

Decision. 37 p.

<http://www.citizen.org/documents/PthalateOpinion.pdf>

Press release. 1 p.

<http://www.citizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=2819>

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## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**Broken Government: An Examination of 130 Executive Branch Failures since 2000.** By Josh Israel, Center for Public Integrity. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 2008. 110 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/broken\\_government/assets/pdf/Brogo-PDF\\_final.pdf](http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/broken_government/assets/pdf/Brogo-PDF_final.pdf)

["Just how bad is this government dysfunction? In an effort to answer that question, we embarked on an examination of the worst systematic failures of the federal government over the past eight years. In this, a comprehensive assessment of these failures, we found more than 125 examples of government breakdown in areas as diverse as education, energy, the environment, justice and security, the military and veterans affairs, health care, transportation, financial management, consumer and worker safety, and more -- failures which adversely affected ordinary people and made the nation a less open or less secure place to live. While some are, by now, depressingly familiar, many are less well-known but equally distressing. And though the list is diverse, it also reflects some recurring -- and troubling -- themes."] [Request #S09-5-3176]

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### LOS ANGELES

**City of Los Angeles: Industrial, Economic, and Administrative Survey of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.** By PA Consulting Group. Prepared for the Los Angeles Office of the Controller. (The Office, Los Angeles, California) February 5, 2009. 235 p.

Full text at: [http://www.lacity.org/ctr/audits/2008\\_DWP\\_IEA\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.lacity.org/ctr/audits/2008_DWP_IEA_Survey.pdf)

["The Los Angeles Department of the Water and Power's decision to embrace renewable energy will have a 'significant impact' on the electricity bills of customers, according to a five-year review of the nation's largest municipal utility. DWP would have difficulty accomplishing Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's plan to make renewable power one-fifth of the city's energy portfolio by 2010. Although the plan would have lasting environmental benefits, the DWP has not 'appropriately analyzed or communicated' the magnitude of the program's cost to its customers.... DWP General Manager H. David Nahai disagreed with the report's findings, saying no additional rate hikes are planned before 2010." Los Angeles Times (February 6, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-5-3334]

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## TAXES

**Big Misconceptions about Small Business and Taxes. By Chye-Ching Huang and James Horney, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 2, 2008. 8 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/8-29-08tax.pdf>

["Supporters of various tax benefits for high-income households often claim that failure to maintain them would have an undue effect on many small businesses. But even assuming a broad definition of 'small business,' such claims are often exaggerated or false. This paper examines three such claims.... Only 1.9 percent of filers with any small-business income are projected to face either of the top two income tax rates in 2009. Only a tiny proportion of the few estates that owe any estate tax have significant small business or farm assets.... Critics often falsely claim that proposals to eliminate tax breaks for hedge fund managers would harm 'mom and pop' businesses. Even the most expansive definition of a small-business owner does not fit the typical hedge fund executive."]

[Request #S09-5-3338]

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**How Big are Total Individual Income Tax Expenditures, and Who Benefits from Them? By Eric Toder and others, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2008. 22 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001234\\_tax\\_expenditures.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001234_tax_expenditures.pdf)

["Analysts often add up tax expenditures to estimate an aggregate cost, but those tallies are inaccurate because they ignore interactions among provisions. We estimate that interactions raise the cost of nonbusiness tax expenditures by 5 to 8 percent, depending on whether an AMT patch is in effect. In 2007, these tax expenditures totaled about \$750 billion -- 5.5 percent of GDP. While tax expenditures benefit taxpayers in all income groups, high-income households gain more relative to income than low-income ones. Although the AMT eliminates some tax preferences, it increases overall tax expenditures because most AMT taxpayers face higher marginal tax rates."]

[Request #S09-5-3164]

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## HEALTH

### CANCER

**Spending to Survive: Cancer Patients Confront Holes in the Health Insurance System. By Karyn Schwartz, Kaiser Family Foundation and others. (The Foundation, Menlo Park, California) February 2009. 55 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/7851.pdf>

["Hefty out-of-pocket expenses, high cost-sharing requirements, caps on benefits and lifetime maximums on some insurance policies can lead many people to resort to bankruptcy. Patients fortunate enough to have private health insurance face severe challenges paying for life-saving treatments. The study profiled 20 patients whose experiences were representative. Problems included delays in treatment and debt and added stress... Public programs such as state high-risk pools or Medicare-- often have high costs and long waiting periods." San Francisco Chronicle (February 6, 2009) 1.] [Request #S09-6-3349]

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### HEALTH INSURANCE

**The Swiss and Dutch Health Insurance Systems: Universal Coverage and Regulated Competitive Insurance Markets. By Robert E. Leu, University of Bern, and others. (The Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York) January 2009. 40 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=785918](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=785918)

["As the United States resumes debate over options for achieving universal health coverage, policymakers are once again examining insurance systems in other industrialized countries. More recent attention has focused on countries that combine universal coverage with private insurance and regulated market competition. Switzerland and the Netherlands, in particular, have drawn attention for their use of individual mandates combined with public oversight of insurance markets. This paper provides an overview of the Swiss and Dutch insurance systems, which embody some of the same concepts that have guided health reforms adopted in Massachusetts and considered by other states and by federal policymakers."]

[Request #S09-6-3306]

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## MEDICARE

**"Using Medicare Payment Policy to Transform the Health System: A Framework for Improving Performance." By Stuart Guterman and others. IN: Health Affairs, doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.28.2.w238. (January 27, 2009) 13 p.**

Full text at:

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/hlthaff.28.2.w238v1?ijkey=BZ6SirL4Qsbb&keytype=ref&siteid=healthaff>

["As the largest payer for health services in the United States, Medicare has the leverage and capacity to slow the growth of program costs, enhance the value of care it purchases, and serve as a model for broader health system change by offering an array of payment approaches to encourage more coordinated care. Medicare 'can and must' take the lead in addressing the excess costs, inefficient and poorly coordinated care, and variable quality that beset the U.S. health care system. Offering an array of more bundled payment approaches as an alternative to Medicare's fee-for-service system would present providers with incentives to be more broadly accountable for their patients' care and outcomes and make health care delivery less fragmented, as well as slowing Medicare spending growth and increasing its value."]

[Request #S09-6-3316]

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## UNINSURED

**Southern California Legislative Districts Have Most Uninsured Children. By the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) February 4, 2009. Various pagings.**

Full text at : [http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/news\\_02042009.html](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/news_02042009.html)

["New data allows Californians to see the number and percent of uninsured children in their Congressional, Assembly and Senate district.... Southern California districts in San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties had the highest percentages of uninsured children. Districts in the Bay Area counties of San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara had the lowest percentages and numbers of uninsured children. 'It's no accident that we're seeing higher rates of children without insurance in less affluent areas,' said E. Richard Brown, director of the Center. 'Families with low or moderate incomes often work for employers that don't make health insurance available to their workers and these families usually cannot afford the soaring costs of coverage purchased.'"]

[Request #S09-6-3324]

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## HOUSING

### LATINOS

**Hispanics and the Economic Downturn: Housing Woes and Remittance Cuts.**  
**By Mark Hugo Lopez and others, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) January 2009. 51 p.**

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/100.pdf>

["One-in-ten Latino homeowners say they missed a mortgage payment or were unable to make a full payment -- 3% say they received a foreclosure notice in the past year. Latinos would be expected to have higher foreclosure rates because they were more likely to have received sub-prime loans, are less wealthy than non-Latinos, and live in areas with rapidly declining home prices. Latin American immigrants are sending less money to family members in their home countries. The drop in remittances, is another sign that the economic crisis is hitting Latin American immigrants especially hard. Illegal immigrants are especially struggling to find money to send home, because they're least likely to find work and most likely to rely on low-paying or part-time jobs." The Press-Enterprise (January 8, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-5-3262]

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## HUMAN SERVICES

### FOSTER CARE

**Does Money Matter? Foster Parenting and Family Finances.** By Cheryl Smithgall and others, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago. (The Hall, Chicago, Illinois) 2008. 35 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.chapinhall.org/article\\_abstract.aspx?ar=1478&L2=61&L3=130](http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1478&L2=61&L3=130)

["This paper presents findings from a longitudinal qualitative study of Illinois foster parents that revealed a connection between how they view their financial situation and the ways in which they understand and carry out their roles as foster parents. The study illuminates the child welfare and family system dynamics that underlie the experiences of these families. Foster parents were found to have different perceptions of their financial situation, and were categorized into three distinct groups: strained, managing, and secure. Foster parents within these groups had different views about their roles in identifying children's needs and helping children access or participate in services or recreational activities."]

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**Review of State Policies and Programs to Support Young People Transitioning Out of Foster Care. By Amy Dworsky and Judy Havlicek, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago. (The Hall, Chicago, Illinois) 2009. 73 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.chapinhall.org/article\\_abstract.aspx?ar=1481&L2=61&L3=130](http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1481&L2=61&L3=130)

["This comprehensive review of policies and programs designed to support youth transitioning out of foster care spans all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As part of the review, Chapin Hall administered a web-based survey of state independent living services coordinators to collect up-to-date information about their state's policies and programs. The survey questions cover a number of domains including: conditions under which foster youth can remain in care after turning 18; provision of independent living and transition services; opportunities for youth to reenter care; and use of state dollars to supplement federal funds from the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program."]

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## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **FINANCING**

**Transportation and Infrastructure Finance. By Sean Slone, Council of State Governments. (The Council, Lexington, Kentucky) 2009. 44 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.csg.org/pubs/Documents/TransportationInfrastructureFinance.pdf>

["Most states have begun to look at and even implement innovative ways to fund transportation. Their efforts come with the realizations that raising fuel taxes is politically difficult and that the future revenue yield from existing funding sources will be inadequate to maintain the nation's existing transportation systems and to increase capacity for the future. This report examines the transportation funding issues states are faced with, the finance options available to them, and how states can decide which options best fit into their transportation plans. It draws on the work of two federal commissions created by Congress... as well as the research and assessment of numerous other transportation, law and tax policy analysts, expert panels, and state and federal officials."]

[Request #S09-5-3343]

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**Using Tolls to Support Needed Transportation Projects. By Spock Solutions, Inc. in association with Jacobs. Prepared for the Kansas Department of Transportation. (The Department, Topeka, Kansas) November 2008. 130 p.**

Full text at: <http://ksturnpike.com/tollsastools.shtml>

["The report is designed to be a resource on the toll strategies that have been implemented throughout the United States to help the state make policy-level decisions on when, if, and how to expand tolling in Kansas beyond the state's one toll facility in operation, the Kansas Turnpike." TRB Newsletter (January 8, 2009) 1.]

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